

CITY OF ROCHESTER



REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT

AND

PORT SANITARY DISTRICT

1926

ROCHESTER :
BALLARD & SON, Printers, 336 High Street

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City of Rochester



REPORT AS TO URBAN DISTRICT

SAYE HOUSE,
2 CASTLE HILL,
ROCHESTER,
March 31st, 1927

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you the following Report as to the Sanitary condition of your District for the year 1926.

This is an Ordinary Report, that is, a Report of a more simple character than the full Survey Report, such as was prepared last year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. PRITCHETT,
Medical Officer of Health

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

AREA, IN ACRES, LAND AND INLAND WATER	..	..	..	2,936
	CENSUS 1921		ESTIMATED 1926	
POPULATION	... 31933	... for	{ BIRTH RATE	... 31,350
			{ DEATH RATE	... 31,270
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1921)	...	...	...	7,076
NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPERATE OCCUPIERS (1921)	...	...	...	7,244
RATEABLE VALUE (POOR RATE)	...	...	...	£147,104
" " (GENERAL DISTRICT RATE)	...	...	...	£138,867
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE:—				
BOROUGH RATE	...	...	...	£612
EDUCATION RATE	...	...	...	£586
GENERAL DISTRICT RATE	...	...	...	£561

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The prosperity of Rochester depends mostly on its River Trade, on the Cement Industry, on Engineering Works, on Agriculture, in connection with which there is a Cattle Market, and on the proximity of the Royal Naval Dockyard at Chatham.

There is no evidence that occupation in any of these directions is specially injurious to health.

The population of the District is both Residential and Working-Class, the latter greatly predominant and increasing in proportion.

VITAL STATISTICS

		TOTAL	M	F	
BIRTHS	{ LEGITIMATE	560	301	259 }	BIRTH RATE (R.G.) 18.4
	{ ILLEGITIMATE	18	11	7 }	
DEATHS		362	188	174	DEATH RATE (R.G.) 11.5
NUMBER OF WOMEN DYING IN, OR IN CONSEQUENCE OF,					{ FROM SEPSIS 0
CHILDBIRTH	...	...	...	...	{ OTHER CAUSES 1

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE PER 1000 BIRTHS:—

LEGITIMATE, 50	ILLEGITIMATE, 1111	TOTAL, 519
DEATHS FROM MEASLES (ALL AGES) ...	...	9
" " WHOOPING COUGH (ALL AGES) ...	...	3
" " DIARRHŒA (UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE) ...	...	4

The Registrar-General's Table of Causes of Death appears at the end of the Report on Page 19

The following Table shews a comparison between the "Rates" in this District, and those in other parts of England and Wales for the year 1926.

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1000 Births
England and Wales ...	17.8	11.6	70
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns	18.2	11.6	73
158 Smaller Towns ...	17.6	10.6	67
London ...	17.1	11.6	64
Rochester ...	18.4	11.5	51.9

The following Table gives the Vital Statistics for the preceding five years:—

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1926 and Previous Years
Name of District—ROCHESTER

YEAR.	Popula- tion estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.		
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.	Number	Rate	of Non- Residents Registered in the District	of Residents not Registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age		At all Ages.
								Number	Rate per 1,000 nett. Births.	
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	12 13
1921	31500	673	698	22.1	15.6	177	50	54	77.3	365 11.5
1922	31560	611	615	19.4	15.6	154	49	36	58.5	391 12.3
1923	32010	596	611	19	13.9	157	39	28	45.8	329 10.2
1924	{ 32490* { 32090†	529	546	16.8	15.1	155	39	33	60.4	369 11.4
1925	{ 32080* { 31980†	538	539	16.8	15.8	153	47	30	55.6	361 11.3
1926	{ 31350* { 31270†	571	578	18.4	17.2	230	53	30	51.9	362 11.5

* For Birth Rate † For Death Rate

COMMENTS ON TABLE I.

POPULATION

The population at the Census of 1921 was said to be 31933. By the middle of 1921 it was said to be 31500 and in the middle of 1926, 5 years later, it is said to be 31270. In these five years, the natural increase of population, that is by excess of births over deaths, has been 1133. Assuming that the figure for the middle of 1921 was correct and adding the natural increase, the figure for the middle of 1926 would be 32633 or 1363 more than is estimated by the Registrar General.

Another element, however, besides natural increase of population comes into consideration and that is, migration between localities. Allowance for this is, the Registrar General says, necessarily approximate only, but the method adopted for estimating the migration factor is applied impartially to all areas of the Country and it is believed that the results may be accepted as sufficiently accurate for the purposes they are intended to serve.

Judging from the facts that in these years, more houses have been erected in Rochester than have been demolished, and that there is at the present time a pronounced shortage of houses, and that there is a considerable degree of overcrowding, the opinion may be expressed that the figures of the Registrar General are probably an under-estimate.

THE BIRTH RATE

This is 1.6 per 1,000 of the population higher than in 1924 and 1925, and .8 higher than in the average of the 158 Smaller Towns in the Country. It is, however, still very low. The precise significance of a high or low Birth Rate is now a matter of much debate. Formerly, all were agreed that a High Rate was a most desirable thing and evidence of a general prosperity leading to early marriages and unrestricted families. At the present time, however, it cannot be doubted that the economic state of the Country is such as to encourage the practice of Birth Restriction in an ever increasing degree. So far from rising, the Birth Rate is likely to continue to fall until the people are satisfied that their children can be reared and educated in comfort.

THE DEATH RATE

The Death Rate from all causes and at all ages is 11.5 per 1,000 of the population. The average of the preceding 5 years is 11.3. The average of the 158 Smaller Towns for 1926 is 10.6.

THE INFANT DEATH RATE

The Infant Death Rate for the year was 51.9. This is 15.1 lower than the average of the 158 Smaller Towns. The average of the preceding 5 years is 59.5.

The Infant Death Rate all over the Country has been falling rapidly in recent years. This has been variously attributed to Improved Sanitation, to Maternal and Infant Welfare Centres, and to the lower incidence of Epidemic Diarrhoea—a great baby-killer. And this last again has been credited to the Motor Car, which, by so widely replacing the Horse, has led to a great diminution in the number of flies to be found in a District; and since the fly is a convicted conveyor of germs, especially deadly to babies, his partial eclipse offers no grounds for regret.

The continued low Infant Mortality Rate in this District, compared with other similar Districts, is a matter for congratulation and affords evidence that our system of dealing with Infant Welfare is paying a good dividend.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS OR INVALIDITY

There have been no special causes of sickness or invalidity during the year nor is it apparent that any conditions of occupation or environment have had a prejudicial effect on the health of the people.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

HOSPITALS

1. FEVER

St. William's Isolation Hospital, situated in the District, and serving Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham provides 80 beds and a further accommodation of 16 beds is in process of erection. It is considered that this accommodation will be sufficient for the needs of the three Towns except in times of Epidemics when any number of beds might be insufficient. Patients from Gillingham to the number of 175 were admitted during 1926, when the number of beds was 80, and no difficulty was found in dealing with them in a proper manner.

2. SMALL POX

There is a Hospital of 24 beds, capable of extension, in the District for the joint use of Rochester and Chatham. Gillingham makes its own provision for Small Pox.

3. TUBERCULOSIS

The treatment of Tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council and suitable cases from this District are admitted to their Sanatoria as occasion requires. There is no Sanatorium for Tuberculosis situated in the District. The Medway Board of Guardians, which administers the Poor Law for that part of this District south of the River, makes provision at their Infirmary at Chatham for 33 Tuberculosis patients.

4. MATERNITY

There is a Naval Maternity Home at Gillingham to which patients from this District can be admitted on payment, but very little use is made of this facility. There are also eight Maternity Beds at the Medway Infirmary.

5. CHILDREN

There is a Children's Ward at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

6. OTHER

The Poor Law Infirmary at Chatham, which serves part of this District, has 380 beds which are allocated as follows:—

General	...	323	Children	...	16
Tuberculosis		33	Maternity	...	8

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL ROCHESTER

This General Hospital, situated in the District serves a population of over 200,000. Its beds numbering 126, are allocated as follows:—

Medical	...	37	Surgical	...	77
Orthopædic	...	4	Ophthalmic	...	8

It has the following Special Departments:—

Massage	Orthopædic	Electrical
Remedial Exercises	Pathological	"X" Rays
Ophthalmic	Ear, Nose and Throat	V.D. Clinic

The accommodation is insufficient for the large Area served and at the present time an appeal is being made for £80,000 to enable the Hospital to do its work in a complete and efficient manner.

It does not appear that this appeal is meeting with so generous a response as might have been anticipated and those who have not subscribed might reflect that an appeal of this kind is entitled to be the first charge on their charitable inclinations.

PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN

There is no Institutional Provision for any of these in the Area except such as is provided by the Poor Law Authorities.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

a. A Horse Ambulance is kept for the removal of Infectious Cases. Arrangements are now being made for the provision of a Motor Ambulance in place of this. The new Ambulance will be kept at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases and will be available both for Rochester and Chatham.

b. An Ambulance for non-Infectious and Accident Cases is maintained by the St. John's Ambulance Association and is available at all times.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

	Situation	Accommodation	By whom Provided
SCHOOL CLINIC	Strood House, The Common, Rochester	Sufficient	Rochester Corporation
TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY	13 New Road, Rochester		Kent County Council
TREATMENT CENTRE FOR VENEREAL DISEASES	St. Bartholomew's Hospital, New Road, Rochester	Sufficient	St. Bartholomew's Hospital
CENTRE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF MILK	The New Corn Exchange, Northgate, Rochester	Sufficient	Rochester Corporation

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

The Staff consists of:—

1. The Medical Officer of Health, who is also Port Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and Medical Superintendent of St. William's Hospital for Infectious Diseases, which is a joint Hospital for Rochester and Chatham and also admits, under agreement, patients from Gillingham. A contribution is paid towards this officer's salary.

2. Chief Sanitary Inspector. This officer holds the Meat Certificate, and a contribution is paid.

3. One Sanitary Inspector. Meat Certificate and a contribution is paid.

4. One Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

5. Two Health Visitors. Fully qualified and with Midwives' Certificates. Contributions paid.

6. One Clerk. No contribution paid.

All these Officers are whole time. No Special Nurses are employed by the Council, nor is there any voluntary Organisation in direct touch with the Health Department.

The accommodation for the Health Department has recently been greatly improved by the removal of their offices from the Guildhall to Saye House, No. 2 Castle Hill. The Health Visitors' quarters have also been removed from Strood House to the New Corn Exchange, leaving Strood House entirely at the disposal of the Education Committee.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

1. There is no special provision for Infectious Cases.

2. For non-Infectious and General Cases the Trustees of Watts Charity have a staff of five Nurses, who undertake work throughout the District. Two of them are constantly employed in District Nursing, and are also registered Midwives under the supervision of the County Council. The remaining three are what is called Occasional Nurses and their duties lie in looking after chronic or bed-ridden cases of illness.

There is also a Jubilee Nurse for the North side of the River.

MIDWIVES

These are entirely controlled by the County Council.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK

CHEMICAL

So far as regards Food and Drugs, this is carried out by the Public Analyst for the City and the results for the year appear on page 13.

BACTERIOLOGICAL

The work under this heading is carried out at the County Bacteriological Laboratory at Maidstone. In addition a Quarterly Chemical and Bacteriological Analysis of the Strood water is made by Dr. Spitta, St. George's Hospital, London.

The various results appear in other parts of the Report.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS AND LOCAL REGULATIONS

The following are in force:—

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	...	Adopted in 1891
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890	...	" 1890
Private Street Works Act, 1892	...	" 1893
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907	...	" 1910
Public Health Act, 1925, Parts II. to V.	...	" 1926
Superannuation Act, 1922	...	" 1926

Bye-Laws:—

Slaughter Houses	...	Made in September, 1921
Offensive Trades (Fish Frying)	...	" December, 1911
Common Lodging Houses (P.H.A., 1875)		

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The circumstances of the Water Supply for each side of the River are the same as previously reported with the exception that the Water Company on the South side is contemplating sinking a new well in the Chalk, at Nashenden, from which they hope to increase their supply by about 1,000,000 gallons a day.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

No action has been taken during the year to check the pollution of the River Medway, which is the only stream in the District, but the establishment of Main Drainage for Rochester and Chatham, now well advanced in construction, will result in a great purification of this water.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Joint Scheme of Main Drainage for Rochester and Chatham makes progress. Work in Rochester was begun in February, 1925, and at the time of writing three quarters of the Sewers have been laid and the construction of the Pumping Stations has been begun. It is expected that the end of 1927 will see the completion of the Rochester works.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Nearly all the houses in the District have W.C.'s which drain into Cesspools. In outlying parts, however, and in some localities in which it has been impossible to dig Cesspools, there are Open Privies. Of these there are still about 90 in the District. During the year, 25 have been converted into W.C.'s, or demolished, or replaced by W.C.'s. In the last 19 years 925 Open Privies have ceased to exist.

SCAVENGING

The methods of scavenging and refuse removal are the same as described in the Report for 1925.

The nuisance which was then described as arising from the Refuse Heap at Frindsbury Brick Fields has been much abated and only one complaint was received during the year as to this.

The methods used by the citizens generally as to putting out their Household Refuse are also the same, that is to say, deplorable.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

I beg to submit my 19th Annual Report on the work done in connection with the sanitary inspection of the City.

The work of the Department necessitated 6,021 inspections and visits being made, and of the various premises inspected, action had to be taken in connection with 730 with the object of securing repairs and sanitary improvements.

Further particulars are given in the following statements:—

HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS

109 houses, as undermentioned, were inspected and reported upon to the Council under the provisions of the Housing Acts:—

Albert Place	...	1	George Lane	...	4
Bartons Alley	...	15	Grove Road	...	1
Bill Street Road	...	1	Henry Street	...	3
Bryant Road	...	1	Hoopers Road	...	13
Burritt Street	...	1	New Covenant Place	...	1
Cecil Road	...	1	Newark Yard	...	2
Cossaek Street	...	6	Parrs Head Lane	...	11
Cross Street	...	1	Prentice Street	...	1
Delce Road	...	1	Princes Street	...	1
Dongola Road	...	1	Richard Street	...	2
Edward Street	...	4	Rose Street	...	3
Five Bells Lane	...	22	Water Place	...	6
Garden Row	...	6			
			Total	...	109

Two houses, Nos. 3 and 4 Newark Yard, were formally closed, but no procedure for Demolition Orders followed, as the owner gave notice of the intention to make the houses fit for human habitation. Extensive improvements, including the complete re-building of the back additions, have been carried out and the owner intends in due course to make application for the Closing Orders to be determined.

The 11 houses in Parrs Head Lane are worthy of special mention as having been very greatly improved during the past year. Some of the houses were in such a condition that it was not an economic proposition to make them thoroughly habitable, and all needed extensive repairs, etc. The owners were supplied by me with plans and schedules of work setting out the improvements necessary to make the whole group of houses satisfactory, and, in view of the shortage of small houses in the city, they agreed to carry out all the work rather than appeal for Closing Orders. Three of the houses had the front walls renewed without the rooms being vacated, false fronts being put in while the work was in progress, and all the houses were provided with new wash-houses, new W.C.'s and drainage, as well as being otherwise thoroughly renovated.

Nos. 1 to 11 Corporation Street, are other cottages which also were much improved during the past year. The dilapidated outbuildings at rear were demolished and replaced with new wash-houses and W.C.'s, and the conversion of two small congested yards at rear, into one enabled the new buildings to be so placed that a clear air space at the back of the cottages was secured. Each cottage was also fitted with sink and water supply inside, and consequently the sanitary arrangements of the whole block are now better than they have ever been. The other miscellaneous repairs effected, completed the general improvement of the property.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

In addition to the 109 houses inspected under the Housing Acts, 621 other premises were dealt with on account of existing defects or insanitary conditions. As a result of inspections, 3298 improvements of various kinds were effected on properties in the City during the year. As in past years, close supervision of work being done under notice was exercised, re-inspections and work in progress necessitating 2,394 visits. In view of the advanced stage which the new main drainage scheme has reached, and of the house drainage changes which may be necessitated on its completion, no attempt has been made to compel re-drainage of houses excepting where circumstances made such action unavoidable. 47 houses, however, were completely re-drained under notice from this Department and 25 houses were partly re-drained. In these instances the main drainage plans were first consulted in order that the new drainage might be so arranged as to be capable of being connected later to the new sewers.

A full list of the sanitary improvements effected is given below:—

Houses re-drained	...	...	47
Houses partly re-drained	...	...	25
Defective drains repaired	...	...	10
Drains unstopped and cleansed	...	...	235
New ventilated soilpipes fixed	...	...	14
New ventshafts fixed	...	...	34
Soilpipes or ventshafts repaired	...	...	3
Privies abolished and replaced by W.C.'s	...	...	25
New W.C. apartments built	...	...	48
W.C.'s provided with new pans and traps	...	...	91
W.C.'s provided with flushing apparatus	...	...	67
W.C. fittings repaired and cleansed	...	...	85
New urinals built	...	...	1
Water supply laid on to urinal	...	...	2
New cesspools dug	...	...	7
Cesspools enlarged	...	...	4
Cesspools repaired	...	...	20
Old cesspools filled in	...	...	9
New sinks fixed	...	...	70
Trapped wastepipes fixed	...	...	150
New lavatory basins fixed	...	...	9
Water Tests applied	...	178	
Smoke Tests applied	...	98	

MISCELLANEOUS

No. of houses closed	...	...	2
No. of houses demolished	...	...	1
Water supply laid on in houses	...	...	26
Roofs repaired	...	...	132
Guttering or downpipes provided or repaired	...	...	128
Rain Water pipes disconnected from drain	...	...	3
Additional light to rooms provided	...	...	6
Damp Walls remedied	...	...	127
Yards re-paved	...	...	31
Yard paving repaired	...	...	41
New wash-houses built	...	...	10
Defective floors repaired	...	...	170
Defective windows repaired	...	...	339
Defective wall and ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	279
Dirty walls cleansed	...	...	294
Dirty ceilings cleansed	...	...	224
Dirty houses cleansed (tenants' neglect)	...	...	6
Overcrowding abated	...	...	11
Nuisances from manure and refuse abated	...	...	28
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	10
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	474
Total			3298

CESSPOOL AND PRIVY EMPTYING

9339 loads of sewage were pumped out of cesspools and taken to the tips during 1926, compared with 8738 loads the previous year. The night-soil gangs also removed 214 loads of privy contents and 985 loads of sludge from cesspools, a total of 1199 loads, the previous year's work was 1205 loads. Owing to heavy rains there was at certain times of the year difficulty in meeting without delay the demands for the cesspool emptying plant, with the consequence that tenants of some properties were subjected to nuisance from choked drains and sewage-flooded yards. Mention of the fact that in the past 20 years the number of loads of sewage removed from cesspools annually has increased from about 3,500 to over 9,000 shows how the Council's responsibility in this respect has increased, and indicates that when the main drainage scheme is complete very many houses will be relieved of the periodic occurrence of serious nuisances unavoidable under the present system of drainage.

FOOD INSPECTION

In the endeavours to give effect to the various Acts, Orders and Regulations controlling the production, storage and sale of food, 1,442 visits and inspections were made during the past year. Of these 1,041 were to slaughter houses, 170 to cowsheds, dairies and milkshops, 51 to bakehouses, 28 to fried fish shops, and 152 to other premises.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, continue to be of the greatest assistance, as the notices of intention to slaughter given by butchers make it possible to arrange for the inspection of all but a small percentage of the carcasses, etc. intended for human food. The butchers in the City have on the whole co-operated well with the Council's Inspectors, and we on our part have endeavoured so to time inspections that the requirements of the Regulations should not prove a source of inconvenience to them. It should be stated, however, that this necessitated a large number of visits, many of which had to be made in the evenings and on Sundays.

The record of food condemned as given below shows that the diseased or unsound carcasses, etc. of 59 animals, and similarly affected edible offals of over 160 other animals, were discovered and dealt with in the course of inspections.

4 carcasses of cows	...	(Tuberculosis)	
2 carcasses of heifers	...	"	
1 carcass of a steer	...	"	
2 forequarters of cow beef	...	"	
2 forequarters of heifers	...	"	
34 carcasses of pigs	...	(23 Tuberculosis, 6 Swine Fever, 3 Fever, 1 Septicæmia,	
		1 Decomposition)	
18 carcasses of sheep	...	(12 Emaciation and Dropsy, 4 Decomposition, 1 Jaundice,	
		1 Extensive Bruising)	
588 lbs. of Imported Beef	...	(Decomposition)	
28 ox heads and tongues	...	(27 Tuberculosis, 1 Actinomycosis)	
32 ox livers	...	(18 Parasites, 6 Tuberculosis, 6 Abscesses, 1 Cirrhosis,	
		1 Cavernous Angioma)	
53 Pigs' heads	...	(Tuberculosis)	
9 Pigs' Plucks	...	"	
15 Pigs' livers	...	(14 Cirrhosis, 1 Tuberculosis)	
2 Pigs' kidneys	...	(Cystic)	
28 Sheeps' livers	...	(Parasites)	
148 1-lb. tins of beef			480 lbs. of dates
19 5-lbs. tins of beef			20 lbs. of sweets
480 tins of fruit			24 lbs of greengages
72 tins of milk			114 barrels of Jersey potatoes
			1 ton of old potatoes

The foods other than fresh meat condemned were almost all cases of surrender after requests for inspection, but in one instance a seizure of "blown" tins of meat exposed for sale was made, and in this case the offender was warned by the Council that any similar offence in the future would result in prosecution.

DISINFECTION

203 rooms were disinfected after the occurrence of cases of Infectious Disease.
56 rooms were fumigated with the object of destroying vermin.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND OFFICE WORK

Inspections :—

Primary inspection of premises	...	...	...	621
House-to-house inspections	...	...	...	109
Caravans inspected	...	...	...	70
Re-inspections after service of notices	...	...	...	1338
Visits to work in progress	...	...	...	1056
" factories and workshops	...	...	...	190
" bakehouses	...	...	...	51
" slaughter-houses	...	...	...	1041
" other premises for food inspection	...	...	...	152
" cowsheds, dairies and milkshops	...	...	...	170
" offensive trades	...	...	...	28
" stables and mews	...	...	...	342
Visits re infectious disease	...	...	...	208
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	645
Total				6021

Office Work :—

Letters received and dealt with	...	...	...	1401
Complaints received and dealt with	...	...	...	362
Letters written...	...	...	...	363
Intimation notices served	...	...	...	730
Statutory notices served...	...	...	...	17
Notices sent out re cesspools and privies	...	...	...	231
" to schools re infectious disease	...	...	...	27
Plans of new drainage drawn	...	...	...	44

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
T. TOPPING,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action has been taken in this matter during the year.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS
BAKEHOUSES

There are 15 on the Register.
All are systematically inspected twice a year and many other occasional visits are paid.
One which was described in last year's Report as being incapable of improvement except after demolition has been discontinued and is in process of demolition.
The condition of the others is on the whole satisfactory so far as their structural state permits. The proprietors do their best in all cases to keep their premises clean, but some of these premises are very old, badly designed and badly situated. It is certainly fortunate that bread is not a ready carrier of germs, otherwise the surroundings in which it is too often produced would have caused it to become an article of food of immense potential danger to the people.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Homework—Wearing Apparel. Lists received, 8. Outworkers—Workmen, 6.
Workshops on Register at end of year :—
Workshops, 79. Domestic Workshops, 45. Bakehouses, 15. Total, 139.
Matters notified by H.M. Inspector, 2. Remedied, 2.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	9	2	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	232	12	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers premises)	—	—	—
Total	241	14	—

2. Defects Found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	4	5†		
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances	10	4		
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient	1		
	unsuitable or defective	4	3	
	not separate for sexes			
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921).				
Total	19	12	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

†Includes 1 defect discovered in 1925 and not remedied until 1926.

LODGING HOUSES

There is one Common Lodging House in the District. It is systematically inspected and there is no complaint as to its condition.

OFFENSIVE TRADES—FRIED FISH SHOPS

There are eleven in the District. All are frequently inspected and have been generally found to be conducted in a proper manner. Apart from the offensive odours which are sometimes given off from these Fish Shops, nothing but good can be said of them as they provide a food which is at once cheap, highly nutritious and not often liable to bacterial contamination, which is more than can be said for Meat or Milk.

COW SHEDS

There are seven in the District. All are systematically inspected and visited at many other times. The Cow Sheds in the District are at present being specially inspected in order that they may comply with the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. Continuous efforts, both by legislation and by local inspection, are made to ensure a clean and pure Milk Supply. It would not be fair to say that these efforts are hopeless but they will have to overcome a vast amount of inertia and steady obstruction on the part of many small Milk Producers before they can be said to be successful.

A Quarterly Inspection of all Milch Cows in the District is made by Mr. EBBETTS, the Veterinary Surgeon, and reports are sent in.

MILK SHOPS AND DAIRIES

There are seventeen on the Register. All are systematically inspected and are generally well conducted.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

There are five in the District, three of which are registered and two licensed. All are properly cared for and the use of the Humane Killer is compulsory under the Slaughter House Bye-Laws.

A further account of the Slaughter Houses and of unsound meat appears in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report, included in this Report.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

Bye-laws with respect to these are in process of being made.

SCHOOLS

The Sanitary Condition of the Elementary Schools in the District is, on the whole, satisfactory. Certain Trough Closets still remain, but these will be abolished when the system of Main Drainage for the District is completed.

The Annual Report of the School Medical Officer deals with the steps taken in regard to the health of the Scholars and the prevention of the spread of Infectious Disease.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1926

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

a. Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	...	66
b. With State assistance under the Housing Acts		
(i). By the Local Authority	...	36
(ii). By other bodies and persons	...	11

Inspection

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	365
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	109
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	2
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	107

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority or their officers	...	298
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

A. Proceedings under Sec. 3 of the Housing Act, 1925		
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	14
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—		
a. By Owners	...	19
b. By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	0
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by Owners of intention to close		0
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts		
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	3
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—		
a. By Owners	...	5
b. By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	0
C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925		
1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders		2
2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made		2
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	...	0
4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition Orders were made		0
5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders		0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

A. MILK SUPPLY

I. The provisions of the Milk and Dairies' Order, 1926, were embodied in a small pamphlet and issued to all concerned. This pamphlet was prepared in consultation with the Medical Officers of Chatham and Gillingham, who issued similar ones in their respective Districts. In this way, just as was done with the Meat Regulations, a uniform procedure is attained in the whole District of the three Towns.

As previously mentioned a special inspection of Cowsheds and Dairies is at present being made and proper Registers compiled.

In respect of the cleanliness of the present Milk Supply, the following figures, supplied by the Chief Sanitary Inspector are of interest—

	Supplies as received from Farmers and Wholesalers	Retailers' Supplies	Totals
Comparatively Clean	28	32	60
Dirty	1	13	14
Very Dirty	6	5	11

These results are obtained by the use of the Tustman Sediment Tester and are considerably better than those of 1925.

II. One case of suspected Tuberculous Milk arose. Samples were taken but proved negative both by Microscopical Examination and by Inoculation into guinea-pigs.

No Tuberculous Cattle were reported under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

III. LICENCES FOR THE SALE OF MILK UNDER SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

One Licence was issued.

PASTEURISATION OF MILK

One establishment was licensed for the production of Pasteurised Milk.

IV. REFUSAL OR REVOCATION OF LICENCE

No action was taken.

V. BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

Two tests of of Pasteurised Milk were made, both of which proved satisfactory.

B. MEAT

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, imposed considerable duties on the Sanitary Staff in the matter of Inspection of Meat at the time of slaughtering, of the condition of Butchers' Shops, of the handling of Meat, of the condition of Stalls and Vehicles, and of the general protection of Meat from contamination. These duties have been properly carried out during the year and very little opposition has been met with on the part of those concerned.

Details are given in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report on page 9.

C. OTHER FOODS

- a. Unsound Food and Food Inspection.
- b. Sanitary Condition of Premises.
- c. Condemnation for Tuberculosis.

These subjects are dealt with in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report on page 9.

D. FOOD POISONING

A case of Food Poisoning arose in a house in Rochester in June and the particulars were duly reported to the Ministry of Health. Three persons were involved and one died, a girl of 18.

It was impossible to discover the exact source of infection but all the evidence pointed to the contamination of some warmed-up meat pudding.

E. SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Analyses performed under the Acts during the year:—

Article	Number	Genuine	Adulterated
Milk	43	37	6
Ground Rice	7	7	
Lard	7	7	
Margarine	3	3	
Butter	1	1	
Vinegar	8	8	
Cheese	1	1	
Cream	3	3	
	—	—	—
	73	67	6
	—	—	—

Percentage of adulteration—8'2.

The average of the preceding 10 years is 12'1.

Forty-three samples of Milk were analysed and the percentage of adulteration was 13'9. The average for the preceding five years is 16'6.

There were four prosecutions, and fines of £2-1-0, £2-1-0 and 15/- were imposed. One case was dismissed.

TABLE II.

F. MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS, 1912 AND 1917

The following Table shews the action taken during the present year under these Regulations:—

Article	Number of Samples Taken and Examined for Preservatives	Number in which Preservatives were reported to be present and Percentage of Preservatives found in each Sample
Milk	43	Nil
Cream (not sold as Preserved Cream)	2	1. (Informal) 27% Boric Acid 2. (Informal) Nil
Cream (sold as Preserved Cream)	1	1. (Informal) 36% Boric Acid

PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE CASES DURING THE YEAR 1926

TABLE III.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified												Total Cases Notified in each Locality of the District.	Total Number of Cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths		
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years															
		Under 1 Year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65				65 and over	
Scarlet Fever.....	74	2	2	6	3	30	15	9	6	1				51	23	71	
Diphtheria.....	30	2		3	2	14	8	1						29	1	29	2
Enteric Fever	6					2		1	1	1				5	1	3	
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	2								2					1	1		
Pneumonia.....	20					1		1	6	6				18	2		14
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	4	4												3	1		
Erysipelas	7							1	1	2				5	2		
Encephalitis Lethargica	1									1					1		
Totals.....	144	4	4	9	5	47	23	13	16	11	5	5		112	32	103	16

Included in this table are two cases of Diphtheria and two of Scarlet Fever which were subsequently found to be wrongly diagnosed. Three of the cases of Scarlet Fever and one of Diphtheria were visitors to the City and were incubating the diseases on arrival.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN 1926 CONSIDERED SERIATIM

Continued Fever, Cholera, Small Pox, Trench Fever, Relapsing Fever, Plague, Typhus Fever, Malaria, Dysentery, Polio-Encephalitis.

No case of these diseases was notified.

Three cases of Para-Typhoid Fever were notified and have been included in the foregoing Table under the head of Enteric Fever.

SCARLET FEVER

Seventy-four cases were notified and there was no death. Seventy-one of these cases were removed to Hospital.

The average number of notifications for the preceding five years is 37·4.

The type of the disease was generally very mild. There was no good evidence of any "return" case nor of the effect of overcrowding in promoting the spread of this disease.

The Dick Test of susceptibility has not been used.

DIPHTHERIA

Thirty cases were notified and there were two deaths. Twenty-nine of these cases were removed to Hospital.

The average number of notifications for the preceding five years is 52·6.

The Schick Test was not employed.

Fifty-eight Bacteriological examinations were made for the purposes of diagnosis during the year with ten positive and forty-eight negative results.

Anti-Diphtheritic Serum is issued free of cost and is available at all hours, day and night.

There were twelve applications for this Serum and 84,000 units were issued at a cost to the Corporation of £5/17/7. The cost in 1925 was £3/13/3.

There is a tendency on the part of some of the local Doctors to wait for the result of the Bacteriological Examination before giving the Serum. This is inadvisable and it cannot, once again, be too strongly emphasised that any case which is sufficiently suspicious to have a swab taken should have a dose of the Serum at the same time.

ENTERIC FEVER

Under this heading three cases of Para-Typhoid Fever are included. In all there were six notifications. There was no notification in 1925.

Three of the cases were removed to St. William's Hospital, two were treated in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and one at home. All recovered. It was impossible to trace the source of infection in any case. Thirteen cases were submitted to Bacteriological Examination of which six proved positive and seven negative.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Two cases were notified. Both recovered.

PNEUMONIA (all forms)

Twenty cases were notified and there were fourteen deaths. The average number of notifications in the preceding five years is 14·2.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

The following Table gives information as to this disease:—

TABLE IV.

	CASES			Vision Un-im- paired	Vision Im- paired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated					
		At Home	In Hospital				
	4	3	1	4	0	0	0

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA

One case was notified in a person aged 35 years, who recovered. There was no notification in 1925.

ERYSIPELAS

Seven cases were notified and there was no death.

The average number of notifications for the preceding five years is 10·2.

TABLE V.

The following Table shews the number of Deaths from Non-Notifiable Diseases year by year from 1921 to 1926 inclusive:—

Disease	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths
Measles	0	5	3	0	1	9
Whooping Cough	4	2	3	0	5	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	5	2	2	5	2	4
Influenza	11	9	6	7	11	5

MEASLES

Measles is a disease which appears to assume epidemic proportions every 3 or 4 years. It then takes a heavy toll of the children both in deaths and in subsequent ill-health and disabilities. About 95 per cent. of Elementary School Children have had Measles by the time they reach 12 years of age. The seriousness of Measles depends not so much on the disease itself as on its complications and if every case were properly cared for and nursed from the onset these complications would rarely arise. Unfortunately it is commonly regarded by the people as a trivial ailment and its potential dangers are not realised.

It should certainly receive more skilled nursing than is at present available, in this District, at all events. In some Districts, Hospital accommodation is provided for cases of Measles of a severe type or arising in houses where the conditions are particularly unsuitable for the Nursing of sick children. It is a difficult disease to deal with because (1) it may be so mild, (2) it may be so dangerous, (3) it may be so wide-spread, (4) it may not arise in large numbers for 2 or 3 consecutive years.

WHOOPIING COUGH

The remarks about Measles apply in a less degree to Whooping Cough.

DIARRHŒA (under 2 years)

This Disease which was formerly largely responsible for the high Infant Death Rates obtaining in the Country has for some years now shewn a very welcome diminution. Some remarks about it appear in an earlier part of the Report.

INFLUENZA

There have been many cases of Influenza in the District during the year. The type of the Disease has been generally mild, but still, of such a quality as to cause a good deal of invalidism.

Advisory Posters were sent out to all the Schools in the District. "Go to bed and stay there" apparently represents the sum of Medical Science in dealing with this Disease.

OTHER INFORMATION

SCHOOL INTIMATIONS

Every Head Teacher is supplied with a book of forms for the purpose of sending a daily statement to the Medical Officer of Health of children absent from School by reason of non-notifiable Infectious Disease. In this way the Department is informed to some extent as to the prevalence of these Diseases.

VACCINATION

No primary or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Disinfection of rooms and their contents is achieved by means of formaldehyde fumigation followed by the free use of fresh air and soap and water.

Occasionally soft articles are steam disinfected at St. William's Hospital.

No steps have been taken during the year with regard to Disinfestation, except in such cases as arise amongst School Children, and which are fully described in the School Medical Officer's Report.

TABLE VI.
TUBERCULOSIS IN 1926

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1				2		1		
5	1	1	4					
10	1			3	1			
15	2	3		1	1	2		
20	4	2	1		3	4		
25	3	4	1		2	2		
35	2	3	4		4	3	2	
45	2					1		
55	1				2			
65 & upwards								
Totals	16	13	10	6	13	13	2	0

The Notifications were divided as follows :

	SOUTH	NORTH	Totals
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9	20	29
Non-Pulmonary do.	7	9	16
Totals ...	16	29	45

One death only from Pulmonary Tuberculosis out of a total of 26 had not been previously notified by the Medical Practitioner, who was under the impression that the case had been reported several years ago.

The average numbers of Notifications and Deaths of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis for the preceding five years are shewn in the following Table :—

		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
		Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
Preceding 5 years ...	...	37'8	24'6	18'2	7'6
1926 ...	...	29	26	16	2

Ninety-eight specimens of sputum were submitted, during the year, to Bacteriological Examination with the result that twenty proved to be positive and seventy-eight negative.

The following information has been courteously supplied by Dr. Roper, the County Tuberculosis Officer :—

Particulars of patients from the Rochester District dealt with at the County Tuberculosis Dispensary during the year 1926 :—

Number of New Cases ...	...	...	...	85
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	764
Number sent to Institution	...	...	...	15
Number receiving Tuberculin	...	...	...	Nil

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS. 1925

One person engaged in the Distribution of Milk was found to have the Tubercle Bacillus in his sputum, and was required to give up his occupation.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925. Section 62

No action has been taken under this section during the year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD-WELFARE

The following Table gives details as to Infant Mortality in 1926 :—

TABLE VII.
INFANT MORTALITY

1926. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 Year of Age

CAUSES OF DEATH		Under 1 week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks.	4 Weeks and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes.	{ Certified Uncertified	11	0	1	3	15	3	4	4	4	30
Measles											
Whooping Cough									1	1	2
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)										1	1
Convulsions											
Laryngitis											
Bronchitis		1				1	2			1	4
Pneumonia (all forms)		1			1	2			1		3
Diarrhoea											
Enteritis								1	1		2
Injury at Birth		1				1					1
Congenital Malformations		2				2		1			3
Premature Birth		4		1		5	1				6
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus					2	2		1			3
Other Causes		2				2		1	1	1	5
Totals		11	0	1	3	15	3	4	4	4	30

Nett Births registered during the calendar year	{ legitimate, 560 illegitimate, 18	Nett Deaths registered during the calendar year	{ legitimate infants, 28 illegitimate infants 2
---	---------------------------------------	---	--

Birth Rate 18'4 Infant Mortality Rate 51'9

This Table shews that the Infant Mortality Rate is 51·9 per 1,000 births. It was 55·6 in 1925, and the average of the preceding 5 years is 55·9. It is 15·1 lower than the average of the 158 Smaller Towns in the Country for the year 1926.

Year by year, this figure, usually regarded as the most reliable index of the state of the Public Health of a District, remains low and must be considered as affording evidence that the methods used in Rochester for guarding Infant Life, are, at all events in comparison with other Districts, effective.

In reaching this result great credit must be given to the Health Visitors and not a little to the practice of distributing Dried Milk on a fairly generous scale.

The Nurses visit each Infant in his first year of life about eight times. Two half-days in each week are devoted to the distribution of Dried Milk, and on these occasions the Nurses have further opportunities of seeing many of the Infants and of advising the Mothers.

CLASSIFICATION OF VISITS PAID BY THE HEALTH VISITORS IN 1926

Notified Births visited	...	...	...	...	...	528
„ „ re-visited	...	...	...	...	...	3640
„ Infants Deaths enquired into	...	...	...	...	...	18
„ Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ante-Natal visits	...	...	...	...	...	114
Children over one year of age visited	...	...	...	...	...	1789
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	735
						6828
Neglected Homes reported to the Inspector of Cruelty to Children	...	...	...	...	...	6
Nuisances reported to the Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	...	13
Dirty Houses	„	„	„	„	...	1

GENERAL

VENEREAL DISEASES

Information as to the place and times where Venereal Diseases Clinics are held is freely made known throughout the District by means of Posters.

The administration of the Clinic is in the hands of the County Authorities and it is locally conducted by Dr. Cotman at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The following are the figures for treatment during the last ten years, so far as Rochester is concerned—

Year	New Cases	Attendances
1917	15	—
1918	31	118
1919	87	175
1920	72	278
1921	63	705
1922	37	455
1923	42	593
1924	53	642
1925	52	493
1926	61	1830

LOCAL RAINFALL IN 1926

Twenty-five inches of Rain fell in 1926. There were 26·39 inches in 1925, and the average of the preceding ten years is 23·9 inches.

RATS

During the year 5721 Rats were destroyed by the Corporation Rat Catcher, whose services are available on two and a half days in each week. In 1925 the number was 5,419, in 1924—5,029, in 1923—5,530, in 1922—6,062, in 1921—6,214, and in 1920—4,390.

During the year 3,592 poison baits were laid which no doubt caused the death of many rats not included in the above figures.

Forty-nine applications for the Rat Catcher's services were received from private persons.

In the River Banks, Warehouses and Wharves 1188 rats out of the above total of 5721, were killed.

ST. WILLIAM'S ISOLATION HOSPITAL

During the whole of the year, cases of Infectious Disease have been received, on terms, from the Borough of Gillingham.

This arrangement has worked with the utmost smoothness and the accommodation provided by the Hospital has proved sufficient for all those seeking admission.

The number of patients admitted during the year from the Constituent Authorities of Rochester and Chatham was 382. The average for the preceding ten years is 256·8. In the year under consideration, Gillingham provided 175 patients, making a grand total of 557.

The following table gives particulars of all these admissions—

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Totals
Rochester	71	29	3	103
Chatham	52	221	6	279
Gillingham	75	99	1	175
				557
	198	349	10	

Bacteriological Examination of patients in the Hospital, for purposes of diagnosis, and before discharge are made whenever it seems desirable.

The mortality was as follows—

Scarlet Fever, 1 per cent. Diphtheria, 7·7 per cent. Typhoid Fever—there was no death

Average number of days detained in Hospital—

Scarlet Fever, 37·4 Diphtheria, 22·5 Typhoid Fever, 36·1

Cases which terminated in death and cases wrongly diagnosed are not included in these averages. 7·7 per cent. of the cases admitted were wrongly diagnosed. In 1925 this percentage was 14·4, in 1924—12·7, in 1923—8·4, and in 1922—4·4.

TABLE VIII.
CAUSES OF DEATH IN ROCHESTER IN 1926

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females
ALL CAUSES.	188	174
1 Enteric fever		
2 Small-pox		
3 Measles	4	5
4 Scarlet fever		
5 Whooping cough	1	2
6 Diphtheria	2	
7 Influenza	3	2
8 Encephalitis lethargica		
9 Meningococcal meningitis		
10 Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	13	13
11 Other tuberculous diseases	1	1
12 Cancer, malignant disease	24	29
13 Rheumatic fever	1	
14 Diabetes	1	2
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	5	15
16 Heart disease	25	29
17 Arterio-sclerosis	18	9
18 Bronchitis	11	11
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	11	3
20 Other respiratory diseases	6	3
21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	4	2
22 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	2	2
23 Appendicitis and typhlitis	1	
24 Cirrhosis of liver	5	3
25 Acute and chronic nephritis... ..	3	1
26 Puerperal sepsis		
27 Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition		1
28 Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	5	4
29 Suicide	4	2
30 Other deaths from violence... ..	8	5
31 Other defined diseases	30	30
32 Causes ill-defined or unknown		
Special Causes (included above)		
Poliomyelitis		
Polioencephalitis		
Deaths of Infants { Total	16	14
under 1 year { Illegitimate	1	1
TOTAL BIRTHS	312	266
Legitimate	301	259
Illegitimate	11	7
POPULATION } For Birth Rate	31,350	
} For Death Rate	31,270	

This Table is supplied by the Registrar General

Report as to Port Sanitary Authority

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

SAYE HOUSE, ROCHESTER.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORT SANITARY COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you a Report as to the Sanitary Work performed during the year 1926.

FORM A.

Amount of shipping entering the Port Sanitary District during the year 1926.

No. Inspected								
		Number	Tonnage	By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	Number reported to be defective	Number of orders issued	
Foreign	Steamers	...	443	314659	33	420	161	161
	Motor	...	58	7289	5	20	1	1
	Sailing	...	64	11016	6	40	10	10
	Fishing	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Foreign		565	332964	44	480	172	172
Coastwise	Steamers	...	804	188300	27	369	154	154
	Motor	...			6	64	10	10
	Sailing	...			12	99	15	15
	Fishing	...			0	18	3	3
	Total Coastwise		822	188300	45	550	182	182
Total Foreign and Coastwise		1387	521264	99	1030	354	354	

All orders issued were informal and all were complied with.

FORM B.

RATS DESTROYED IN 1926

The services of the Corporation Rat Catcher were occasionally used on Riverside buildings and Wharfs where he killed 1,188 rats, besides laying many poison baits.

FORM C.

No vessel arrived from plague infected or suspected Ports.

FORM D.

On September 26th, the Barque, "Llalla Rookh" arrived from the Baltic and reported a number of rats on board. The Corporation Rat Catcher's services were employed and 29 rats were killed.

All the rats met with during the year were of the brown variety, and none were subjected to macroscopic, microscopic or bacteriological examination. No dead rat was found either afloat or ashore unless he had been previously killed. Every master of a Ship coming into the Port is closely questioned as to the presence of live or dead rats on board his vessel, and this interrogation is extended also to the Stewards and fore-castle hands.

A Hand Bill with regard to the destruction of rats is issued to every vessel entering the Port. A Hand Bill is also issued with regard to the responsibilities of Master Mariners in the matter of Infectious Disease.

The following vessels were also boarded by the Port Sanitary Inspector:—

Barges	764	Lighters	133
Canal Boats	147	Water Boat	1
Total number of vessels inspected		2075	
,, in 1925		1753	
,, 1924		1830	
,, 1923		1931	
,, 1922		2018	
,, 1921		1867	
,, 1920		2011	
,, 1919		1973	
,, 1918		1952	
,, 1917		1980	

NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS

British 1842, Dutch 61, Norwegian 48, Belgian 45, Danish 19, Swedish 18, German 18, Irish 9, Finnish 8, French 2, Esthonian 1, Russian 1, Japanese 1, Polish 1, Greek 1.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

The Chief imports are Bricks, Timber, Coal, China Clay, Flour, Fruit, Stone, Corn, various Seeds and Kernels for making Cattle Cake, and Wood Pulp.

The chief articles exported are Cement, Cattle Cake and Oil.

Import Trade is carried on with Scandinavian, French, Dutch, Belgian, German and Baltic Ports in Europe, and with Chinese and West African Ports.

Cement is shipped to practically all parts of the world, either direct or first taken to London for Trans-shipment.

The principal British Ports with which Trade is carried on, are the Tyne, Humber, Tees and Sunderland, most of the Scottish Ports, Liverpool, Dublin, Cardiff, Swansea, Barry and London.

PORT OF ROCHESTER

REPORT AS TO EXECUTION OF CANAL BOATS ACTS FOR THE YEAR 1926

Name and Address of Inspector—HENRY EVANS, 63 Weston Road, Strood, Rochester.

Remuneration ... £4 per annum.

No boat was detained during the year.

Number of new boats registered	...	...	...	...	0
„ boats re-registered owing to structural alteration	...	...	...	...	0
„ „ for other reasons	...	...	...	...	0
„ boats on Register on December 31st, 1926	...	...	...	...	100
„ „ inspected	...	...	...	...	147
„ „ with one or more infringements	...	...	...	...	33
Total number of infringements	...	...	...	...	39
„ „ „ remedied	...	...	...	...	33
„ „ women on boats inspected	...	...	...	...	0
„ „ children under 5 years	...	...	...	...	0
„ „ boats on Register	...	...	...	...	100

CLASSIFIED LIST OF INFRINGEMENTS

Masters without Certificates	...	...	...	...	6
Boats not properly marked	...	...	...	...	5
Cabins not in cleanly condition	...	...	...	...	14
Cabins requiring to be painted	...	...	...	...	4
Boats with defective bulkheads	...	...	...	...	2
Drinking water vessels to be provided	...	...	...	...	4
Leaky decks causing wet berths	...	...	...	...	4

No boats were struck off the Register during the year.

No case of Infectious Disease was met with, nor was it necessary to take legal steps with respect of any infringement.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK OF THE PORT

The Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, one Senior Sanitary Inspector and one Junior Sanitary Inspector. A Motor Launch is provided.

Systematic inspections of the Shipping of the Port are made and vessels specially visited, and their crews medically examined as occasion requires.

An arrangement has been concluded with the Port of London with regard to the inspection of vessels at Sheerness. By this arrangement the Port of London will continue to inspect as many vessels as they can at Sheerness, and the Customs Authorities will inform, by telegram, the Medical Officer of the Port of Rochester of ships passing up the Medway uninspected at Sheerness.

The Port has no special provision for cleansing and disinfecting verminous persons and their belongings, but in case of need the Disinfecting Station at the Medway Infirmary would be at the disposal of the Port Authorities.

The Local Hospital for Infectious Diseases receives cases of Small Pox, Cerebro Spinal Fever, Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

There is no arrangement for the receipt of wireless messages relating to the health of the crews of incoming vessels.

SHELL FISH BEDS

There are shell fish layings in the lower reaches of the River and the fish gathered from these layings are usually found to be clean. In September, however, some Mussels gathered from one of the Creeks were found to be deeply contaminated by the *Bacillus Coli*. The gathering was suspended for about a month, at the end of which time they were found to be reasonably clean and their gathering was resumed.

A quantity of crude sewage enters the River from various sources, and it is therefor always dangerous to pick up and eat shell fish from unauthorised places, and many cases of Typhoid Fever have, in the past, been attributed to this practice.

WATER BOATS

One Boat is used for supplying ships with water for drinking purposes.

This Boat and its tanks have been inspected eleven times during the year, and the tanks cleansed and limewashed five times.

CASES OF SICKNESS

Sixty-six cases of sickness, mostly trivial, but including one fatal accident and eleven cases of Influenza, came under observation. No cases of Infectious Disease, other than the Influenza, were found.

Venereal Disease.—The local facilities for treating Venereal Disease, are fully made known, by hand-bill, to each vessel on entering the Port. Two cases were found.

PASSENGERS

So far as known, no passenger arrived in the Port.

CARGOES

Cargoes of Flour, Wheat, Meal, Sugar, Potatoes, General Food, Oats, Maize, Sprats, Clams, Mussels and Periwinkles, to the number of 101, were examined and mostly found to be in good condition.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Otterham Quay, Halstow and Whitewall were visited from time to time, and offer no matter for comment.

Riverside factories and wharves have been periodically visited and the Port Regulations duly posted.

Twenty-one dead dogs and cats, found on the foreshore or afloat, were disinfected and buried.

The following Table shews the number of notices served during the year by the Port Sanitary Inspector on vessels other than Canal Boats, and the nuisances discovered and dealt with:—

	Foreign	Coastwise	Barges	Total
Forecastles to cleanse	87	70	5	162
Cabins to cleanse	2	1	18	21
Forecastles to paint	6	9	1	16
Cabins to paint	1	0	6	7
Defective light in cabins or forecastles	3	6	5	14
Defective ventilation in cabins or forecastles	4	7	1	12
Leaky decks causing wet berths ...	2	13	6	21
Drinking water tanks to cleanse ...	21	16	23	60
Defective bulkheads	0	2	5	7
Stoves and funnels to renew	13	6	4	23
W.C.'s to cleanse and disinfect ...	59	77	0	136
Peaks and Lazarettes to cleanse and limewash	0	6	0	6
Side scuttles and deck prisms to refit ...	12	17	0	29
Bilges to cleanse and disinfect ...	2	6	6	14
Defective floors in cabins or forecastles ...	0	4	3	7
Food cupboards to cleanse, paint or ventilate	22	26	2	50
Dirty old beds burnt	11	5	5	21
Skylights to glaze	0	0	7	7
To remove filth from forecastle ...	15	1	0	16
Sleeping berths to paint	12	7	4	23
To provide bottom boards to sleeping berths	0	2	3	5
Skylight and scuttle hatch combings to caulk	0	1	7	8
To repair W.C. seats and doors ...	3	6	0	9
Seat lockers to repair	0	0	2	2
Cabin ladders to repair	0	0	2	2
Manhole door to provide to drinking water tank	2	0	1	3
Mess-room table to repair	1	0	0	1
Ventilator flanges to renew	4	2	0	6
Leaky pawl and windlass bitts to caulk ...	0	4	0	4
Defective scuppers in forecastle ...	2	2	0	4
Leaky hawse pipes in forecastle ...	0	2	0	2
Bread and flour tanks to scrape and limewash	4	1	0	5
	<hr/> 288 <hr/>	<hr/> 299 <hr/>	<hr/> 116 <hr/>	<hr/> 703 <hr/>

All notices were complied with.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. PRITCHETT,

Medical Officer of Health